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DISTRICT 6

Arizona House of Representatives
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

May 6, 2016

Oregon Governor Kate Brown
Oregon Representative Greg Walden
FBI Director James Comey

Re: the shooting of Arizona Citizen Mr. LaVoy Finicum

Dear Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Oregon Representative Greg Walden and FBI Director James Comey:

Recently, it was reported in the media that you Governor Brown, and you Representative Walden, have expressed concerns about the actions of officials concerning the January 26, 2016 traffic stop and shooting death of our unarmed Arizona rancher, Mr. LaVoy Finicum.

Governor Brown, you released a statement in which you called into question the actions of federal agents, and described the report as "troubling, and properly the subject of an ongoing investigation." Representative Walden, you stated that you were left "bewildered by the role of the FBI agents."

As representatives of the citizens and State of Arizona, we share your concerns and urge you to ensure a full, complete and transparent investigation into how United States citizens, who merely exercise their Constitutional 1st Amendment rights of free speech and to peaceably assemble, are treated now and in the future.

After gunning-down and killing the unarmed Finicum, who was shot in his back 3 times, the federal government now has the audacity to label Finicum, and the citizens who peacefully assembled along with him, as domestic terrorists. Those currently being held who, along with Finicum, exercised their rights of free speech and to peaceably assemble, include Ammon Bundy, Ryan Bundy, Brian Cavalier, Shawna Cox, Ryan Waylen Payne, Joseph Donald O'Shaughnessy and Peter Santilli.

In a recent radio interview in Tucson, Arizona, Finicum's daughter Tierra described her father as follows:

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"The kind of narrative that is going through our country is that he [Finicum] was domestic terrorist, gun slinging and violent man. That is not my dad. He is a principled man. He is a gentle and diligent person. I often think of Steven R. Covey; not because they were both bald but because they lived by true principles. 'Early to bed, early to rise.' He studied great works of literature. He studied the scriptures, words of God and he wanted to be on the right side of God at all times. He was my dad. I'm sure lots of girls would say that their dad was the best man they know, but that is my dad, and I want to be just like him."

Many Arizonans knew, mourn and miss LaVoy Finicum, and I am confident that he was not under any circumstances a terrorist. According to the people who knew him, Finicum was incapable of spreading fear and harming America, which is the very definition of a domestic terrorist. In fact, by all accounts Finicum was someone who only intended to spread an understanding of the needs of the people living within the west. Additionally, he pointed out how the western states, that have hundreds of millions of acres of untaxed federally-controlled land within their boundaries, have not been treated equally in comparison to eastern states.

Our nation was founded by men who not only questioned the arbitrary and capricious actions of unreasonable authority, but who also stood up against that authority, and in so doing, forged a Constitutional Republic. Finicum's actions are insignificant in comparison to those of Adams, Madison, Jefferson and Washington. If our nation's founders lived today, would they merely for political reasons be vilified and labeled as domestic terrorists?

The below signed Arizona House and Senate Legislators cannot tolerate the demonization of patriotic Americans, from all walks of life, simply because they question authority. We call upon the State of Oregon and the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation to uphold their legal responsibility to fully and transparently investigate this tragedy, and to quickly vindicate those who have been wrongly accused.

Respectfully,



Arizona State Representative Bob Thorpe

RJT/mkr

Brenda Barton

David Lygsten, LD 22

Via Creek

Glenn E. ...

James

Michael

Paul W. Campbell

Senator Sylvia Allen

Senator Dale ...

Senator David C. Farnsworth

Senator Dan Shroter

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